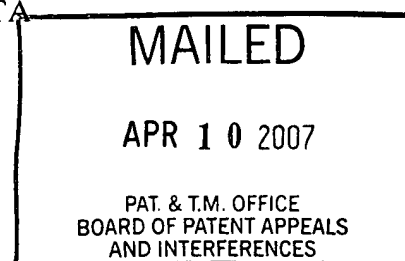


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte NOBUYUKI KIHARA and TEPPEI YOKOTA

Application No. 09/674,441



ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on January 16, 2007. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matter requiring attention prior to docketing is identified below.

On January 3, 2007, appellants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). It is not clear from the record whether the examiner considered the IDS submitted or whether the examiner notified appellants of why the submission did not meet the criteria set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Application No. 09/674,441

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that this application be returned to the examiner to: 1) consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 3, 2007; 2) to provide appropriate written notification to appellants of such consideration; and 3) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By:


Dale M. Shaw

Chief Appeal Administrator
(571) 272-9797

cc: Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP
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Washington, DC 20001-4413

DMS/tdl